

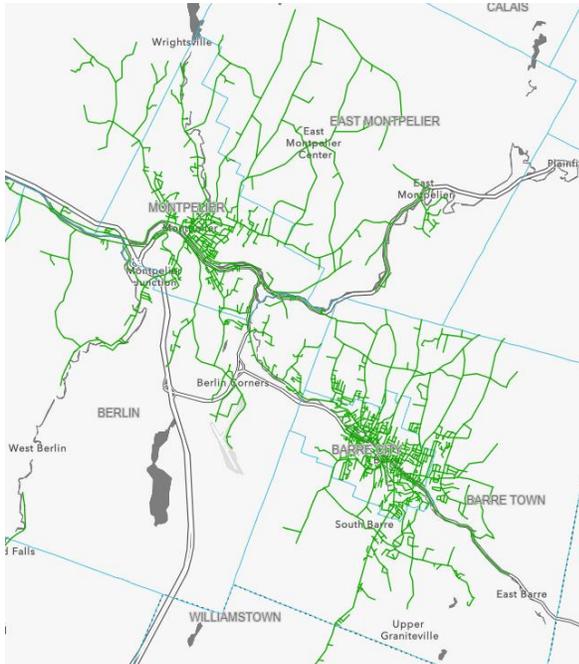
# VCUDA

*The Vermont Communications Union Districts Association serves to unite the interests of Vermont's municipal internet networks, devising ways to share resources and voicing CUD consensus on critical policy issues.*

January 31, 2023

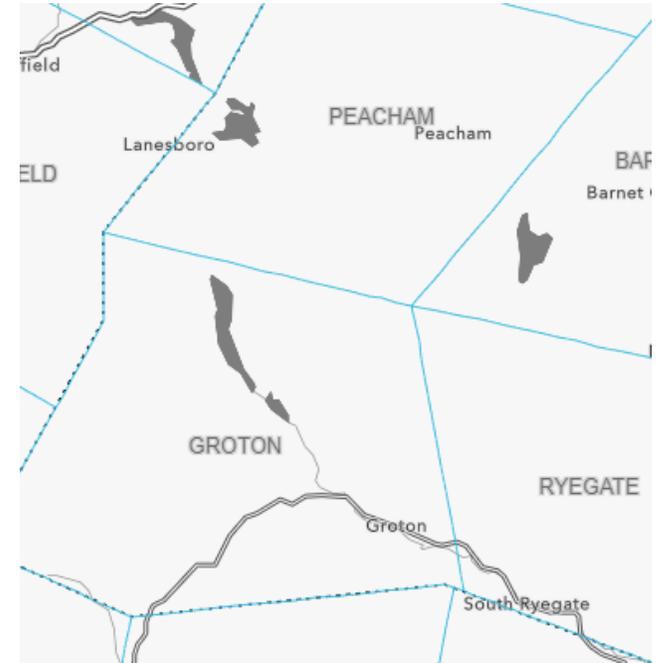
Ellie de Villiers, Chair of VCUDA  
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# What causes broadband deserts?



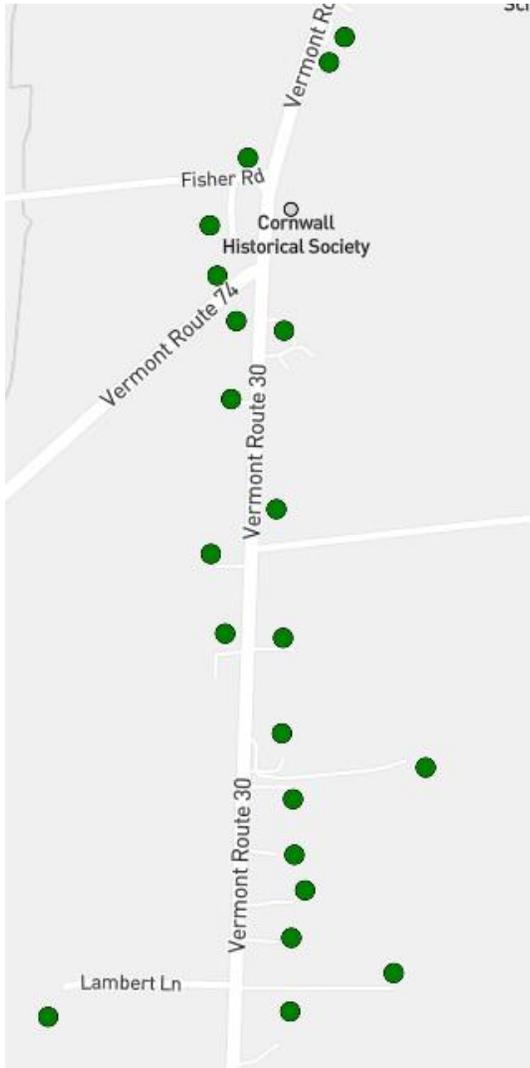
Households/mile:

- Montpelier – 380.4
- Barre Town – 217.7
- Groton – 10.9
- Peacham – 11.6



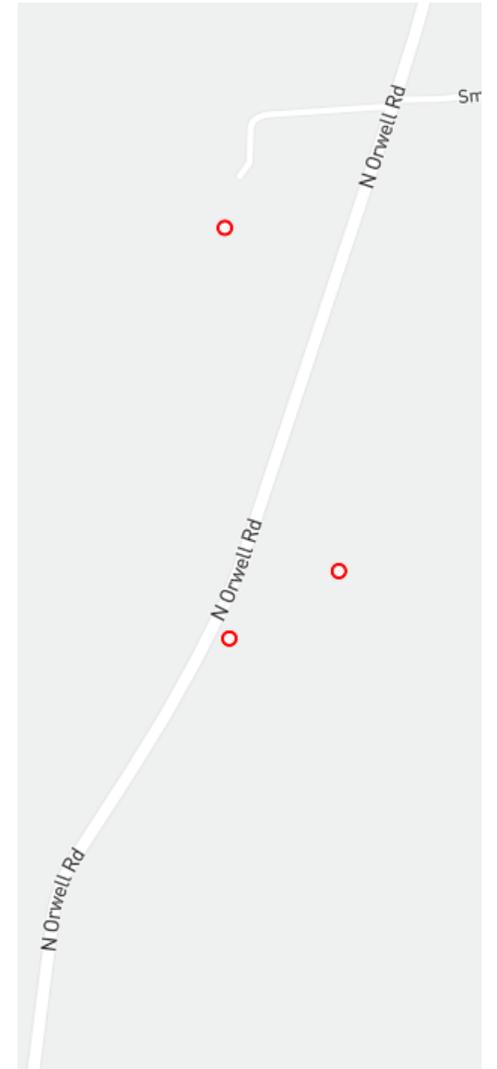
*Population density makes for strong business cases*

# CUDs: public entities building strong businesses

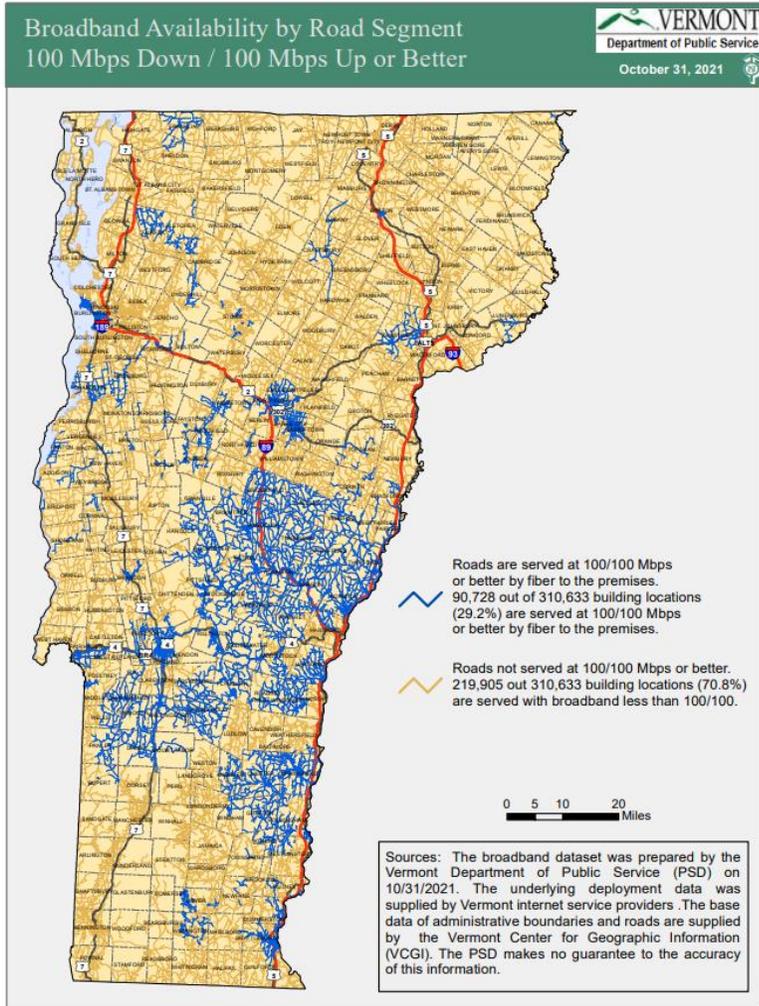


- Minimize costs
  - Transparent competitive procurement
- Build service revenues
  - Generate revenues by serving customers
  - Revenues from denser areas support lower revenues from rural areas
- Funding/financing
  - Grant funding
  - Minimizing debt service / interest rates
- Capital directed to stakeholder benefit
  - Strong human resources with public accountability
  - Profits go to completing **availability** (infrastructure) and
  - Increasing **affordability** for those in need
  - This is how we bridge the digital divide

*Public entities = open meetings, town-appointed governance, publicly owned and controlled assets*



# Translating service speeds

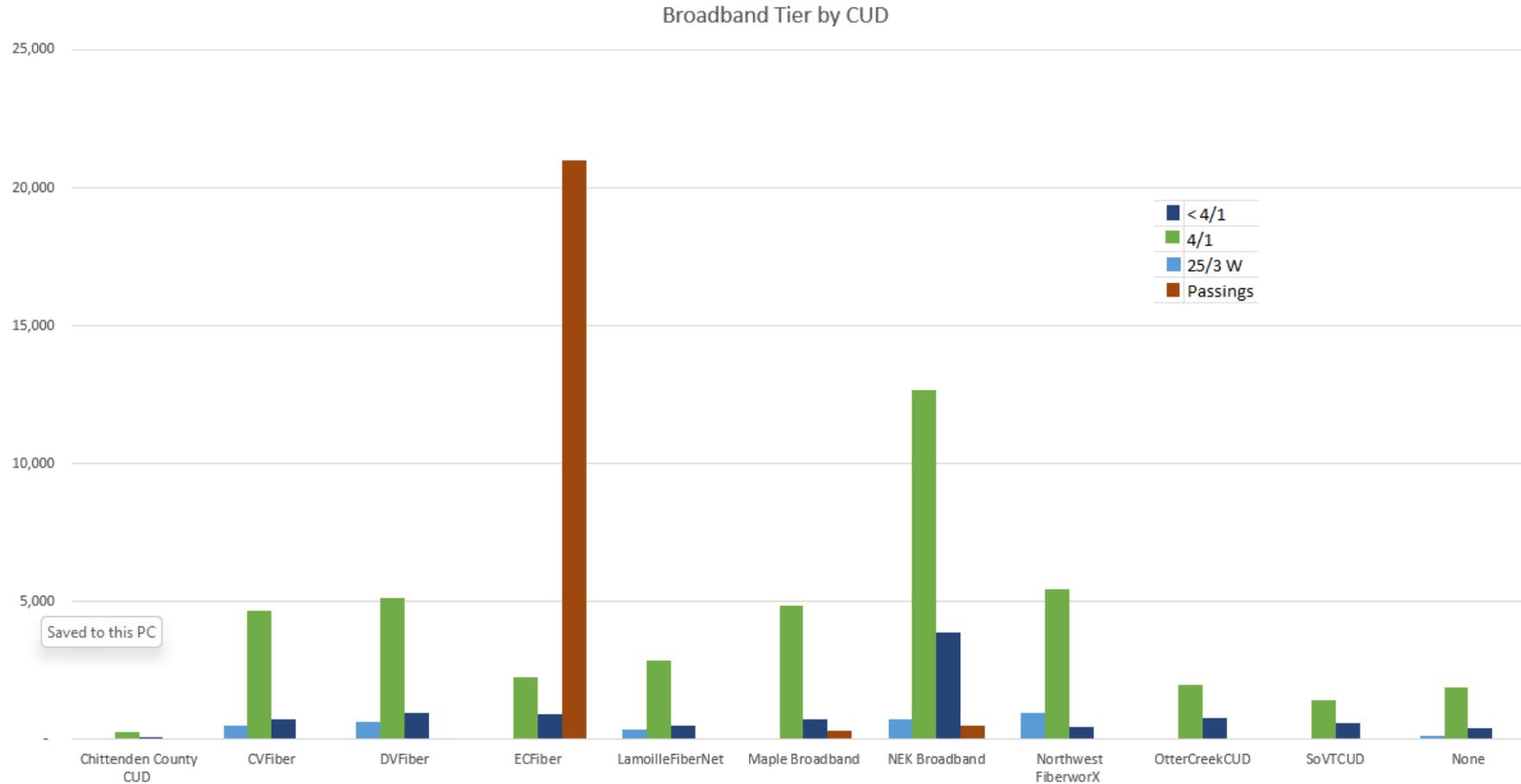


Service Speed	Translation	Typical Technology	State of Vermont
< 4/1 Mbps	No service	Dial-up; bad DSL	3%
4/1 – 25/3 Mbps	Poor service	DSL	15%
> 25/3 Mbps	Mostly adequate	Wireless	3%
> 100/20 Mbps	Good	Cable	48%
> 100/100 Mbps	Great – backbone for digital future	Fiber	30%

*Percent served refers to locations*

*Dense areas generally well-served; reaching the end of roads is and has been the problem CUDs are solving!*

# What's the need across the state?



Saved to this PC

*~19% of Vermonters are unserved/underserved*

Vermont Totals

**254,607**

Addresses Served

**58,469**

Addresses Underserved/Unserved

**7,342.39**

Road miles Underserved/unserved

# Bottoms-up, grassroots support

- Town representatives govern each CUD, its private partners and the public interest
- Small CUD staffs supported by hundreds of volunteers
- Skills include telecommunications strategy & management, technical, legal & regulatory, GIS, software, finance ...
- CUD staff and volunteers support each other as part of “Team Vermont”



Photo credit: Mary Kay Raymond, NW Fiberworx

# CUD Contact Information

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## Otter Creek CUD

<https://occud.org>

## Southern Vermont CUD

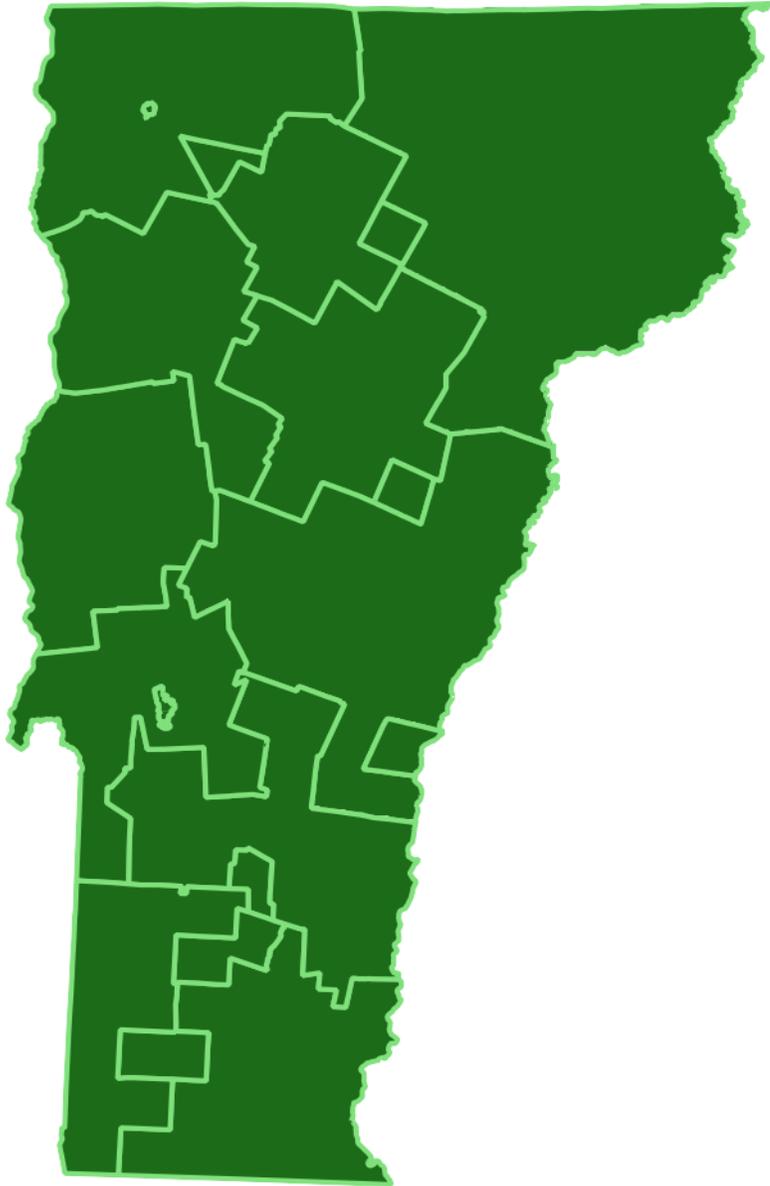
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*VCUDA*

Thank you!

January 31, 2023

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